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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT
25X1

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Mass Mobilization of the USSR Urban Population
for Work in the Villages

DATE DISTR/3 January 1954

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE
ACQUIRED - - - -NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION [REDACTED]

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. On 7 Sep 53, a plenary session of the Communist Party Central Committee issued a decree entitled "Measures for the Further Development of USSR Agricultural Economy" which ordered that "The USSR Ministry of Agriculture and Procurement, the councils of Ministers of the union republics, the krai and oblast executive committees will be required to send 100 thousand agronomists and sootecnicians (veterinarians) to machine tractor stations by Spring 1954 to be recruited among specialists with medium and higher education who have been released by abolishing networks of agronomists and sootecnicians serving in machine tractor stations and in rayon agricultural and procurement directorates and by curtailing numbers of specialists presently completing their studies in agricultural higher educational institutions and tehnikums."

2. [REDACTED] Immediately after the decree was published, a wide campaign was begun in the nation for mobilizing agricultural specialists residing in cities for work in the villages. Pages of Soviet newspapers were filled with communications such as "Specialists are travelling to the villages", "By Gail of the Communist Party", "For Work in the Villages", etc, and with letters from people purportedly "inspired with an enormous joy and happiness at the Party's call who are leaving their work and homes in cities to take up permanent work in the country. Furthermore, it is apparent from the papers that the mass transfer of people to permanent work in the country is not confined to agricultural specialists, but also includes the rank and file of former tractor and combine operators and leaders of field-work brigades. This is not a voluntary campaign but is being carried out urgently and by command. Precisely the same sort of a campaign was carried out in 1948. [REDACTED] all oblast, municipal and rayon Party committees received circulars from the Party Central Committee requiring that all establishments, organizations and enterprises ascertain the names of all agricultural specialists engaged in work other than their speciality and effect the transfer of such people into work for which they were trained. Of course, that campaign was carried out superficially and consisted essentially of transferring agricultural specialists out of diverse organizations into agricultural organizations while there was no actual large-scale transfer into the rural area. We see that while the present campaign is similar to that of 1948, it differs in that it involves a mass transfer of people into the countryside. Let us attempt to determine the reasons, goal and consequences of this campaign. As indirectly confirmed by a 3 Sep 53

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address of Khrushchev and by an 8 Aug 53 address of Malenkov, the forced collectivization of the peasants resulted, among other things, in a mass flight of the peasants into cities, which in turn resulted in an enormous over-population of cities and an acute lack of manpower in rural areas. In his address, Malenkov stated that according to the 1926 census, the city population comprised 26 million people out of a total national population of 147 million; in 1940 the city population was 61 million out of a total population of 170.5 million; and in 1953 the city population was 80 million in a total population of 200 million. If we take into consideration population losses during World War II, as well as periods when city populations decreased by mass purges and introductions of new passport systems, we see the enormous proportions of the peasants' flight from the kolkhoz to towns and industrial centers.

3. At the present time there are about 26.5 million households in rural areas while there were 25 million households before collectivization. If we take into account the significant expansion of USSR territory between 1930 and 1953, we see that there has been a relative decrease in the number of peasant households. In rural areas children and old people over 60 work extensively in the fields and do other work, while the main labor force is, of course, women.
4. There is an extremely unsatisfactory situation in the kolkhoz and machine tractor station with regard to trained specialists. Of 350 thousand agricultural specialists with middle and higher education, only 18.5 thousand are employed on kolkhozes, and only 50 thousand on machine tractor stations. The remaining specialists have settled down in various establishments in the cities. Of 94 thousand kolkhoz chairmen, only 2.4 thousand have a higher education, while 14 thousand have a medium education. Of machine tractor station directors, only 22.6% have a higher education (usually a Party education, which can hardly be called a higher education), 47% have medium education, while 30.6% have only primary education. Only 14.5% of the chief engineers of the machine tractor stations have a higher education, while 64.4% have only elementary education. Of workshop managers, only 1.3% have a higher education, while 89.9% have only elementary education. As we see, Soviet agriculture is suffering from terrible depopulation while the Government is unable to cope with the problems of living space, food supply and transport in over-populated cities. As a result of this, the Government is attempting to solve the problem by moving from city to village all who have at one time or another fled from the village and who have any sort of training in the field of agriculture.
5. The Government expects to send 100 thousand agronomists and zootechnicians and additionally will mobilize 50 thousand Party workers for permanent duty in rural areas to organize Party-political work. At the same time, an enormous army of tractor and combine operators, brigade leaders and ordinary kolkhoz workers who fled into the city to escape hellish living and working conditions will also be sent to work in rural areas.
6. In my opinion, this campaign will be carried out in practice as follows: oblast' Party committees received from the Central Committee the directive and instructions on the fulfillment of the 3 September Resolution of the Communist Party Central Committee plenum. In turn, the oblast Party committees issued directives through municipal and rayon Party committees to all municipal and rayon organizations, establishments and enterprises (including executive committees). These directives contain the following:
 - (a) Personnel dossier and registration cards in personnel offices of all organizations and enterprises should be examined to get the names of all agricultural specialists;
 - (b) In the same way as above lists will be compiled of all persons who have ever worked in agriculture;
 - (c) The lists of all these people will be sent to rayon Party committees, who will have been given definite planned numbers of persons they must send to work permanently in kolkhozes and machine-tractor stations;
 - (d) These lists will be examined by special commissions in rayon Party committees and a number of persons will be selected for permanent assignment to work in rural areas according to the number specified in the order (rasnaryadka) and in some cases the quota will be over-fulfilled;
 - (e) Persons who occupy responsible positions in kolkhozes and machine tractor stations but who do not have special training will be demoted to ordinary jobs and be replaced by specialists.

the above is the approximate content of the directive now in effect in the Soviet Union.

7. Presumably, appropriate measures have been taken to anticipate attempts by workers to avoid being sent into rural areas and by their supervisors to retain them in their present capacities. Supervisors have probably been charged with a grave responsibility for unwavering fulfillment of the directive, and the work is probably under the strict supervision of Party instructors and secretaries. It is apparent from the Soviet press that a vast campaign has been launched to carry out the directive.

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8.

Peasants fled from the kolkhos to escape poverty, hunger and injustice, knowing that in the city they could at least find a minimum of material comforts and possibilities for cultural diversions, and a little leisure after an eight-hour work day. It is natural to expect extreme dissatisfaction from people who will have to give up their life in the cities, the apartments they acquired with such difficulty, take their children out of the schools, and return to the hated life in the kolkhos where they will be expected to begin work immediately, though there has been nothing said about providing quarters, fuel or any of the other necessities.

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9. No less negative will be the reaction of those people who will have to be demoted to routine jobs to make place for the new arrivals. Apart from the financial loss, they will suffer humiliation, and will do everything in their power to hang on to their jobs and interfere with the work of the new arrivals. Furthermore there will arise a sort of class antagonism between the old-time country people and the newly-arrived "city folk", which will result in difficult work conditions and general confusion. The loss of personnel in production and office jobs in the city will mean an additional burden for those who remain.
10. This is my reaction to the new mass experiment with human beings being conducted by the Soviet Government.

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